

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following page of text after page 4, line 29 (reference to line numbers relates to lines of text):

-- ball shaft 34, FIG. 7, a lock member such as a locking screw 36, FIGs. 8 and 10, and a locking screw handle 38, FIGs. 9 and 10. Ball 32 is attached to end 35 of ball shaft 34. Alternatively, ball 32 and shaft 34 could be integral. End 37 of ball shaft 35 is attached to jaw assembly 51. Ball 32 is maneuverable by rotational and pivotal movement through a multitude of positions within neck 19 in order to maneuver the jaws to position the shaft S (and associated instrument) in a variety of orientations. Such maneuverability is shown for example by comparing FIGs. 3, 11 and 12. Once the jaw assembly 51 is maneuvered to the desired position, handle 38, which is attached to locking screw 36 via arm 39 extending through aperture 41, is rotated to advance locking screw 36 so that abutment end 33 tightly presses against ball 32. This locks ball 32 in position and prevents movement thereof.

Referring to FIGs. 13A, 13B and 14, jaw assembly 51 includes a movable jaw 64 having an internally threaded opening 71 to receive mounting screw 58 of a stationary jaw 52. Arm 66 of movable jaw 64 is mounted within a groove 56 formed on stationary jaw 52. Ball shaft 34 is adhesively mounted within a recess (not shown) of stationary jaw 52, although other means of connection are also contemplated. A jaw approximation control member, such as locking knob 72, as best shown in FIGs. 3 and 10, is attached to a mounting screw 58 such that rotation of locking knob 72 rotates threaded mounting screw 58 to advance movable jaw 64 towards a stationary jaw 52. Spring 59 biases movable jaw 64 to the open position, away from stationary jaw 52. Approximation of jaws 52 and 64 grasps and retains instrument shaft S therebetween. Referring back to FIG. 2, in conjunction with FIGs. 13A, 13B and 14, a pair of friction enhancing members such as rubber pads 54 and 69 are mounted within grooves 61 and 68 formed on stationary jaw 52 and movable jaw 64, respectively, to facilitate atraumatic grasping of instrument shaft S.

In use, instrument shaft S is placed between movable jaw 64 and stationary jaw 52 with the jaws in the open position as shown in FIG. 2. Knob 72 is rotated to close the jaws 64, 52 to clamp and securely hold instrument shaft S. Jaw assembly 51 is manually movable to position the instrument shaft S at the desired angle relative to base 50 as ball 32 pivots within socket 15 of neck 19. Once pivoted to a desired position, for example, the position shown in FIG. 11 or FIG. 12 (other positions are clearly contemplated), locking screw handle 38 is rotated to advance locking screw 36 against ball 32 to lock ball 32 in place. This prevents further movement of the--